(d) and (e) The Indian Council of Medical Research who are concerned with major surveys relatings to bio-medical research have indicated that they are not aware of any such surveys conducted on school children.

Quality Specifications of Mineral Water

209. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:
SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to numerous complaints regarding the quality of Mineral Water marketed by spurious agencies;

(b) whether any standard has been fixed to ensure minimum content of specified minerals in the Mineral Water available in the market;

(c) if so, the agancies through which the quality/norms is being checked; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and the action being taken by Government to check sale of ordinary drinking water at an exhorbitant price in the name of Mineral Water?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) No specific complaint regarding marketing of mineral water by spurious agencies has been received from the Food Health Authorities of State/UTs administering the Prevention of Food Adulteration (PFA) Act, 1954 & Rules, 1955.

(b) Standards of mineral water prescribed under the provision of FPA Act, 1954 & Rules do not specify any minimum limit of mineral content as mineral content varies from source to source. However, the standards of mineral water as per the PFA Rules, 1955 are given at Statement *(See* below).

(c) and (d) The Food (Health) Authorities of States/UTs have been requested to keep a vigil on quality of mineral water sold in the market.

Statement

A. 32. Mineral Water:

1. Natural Mineral water means the mineral water obtained directly from potable natural or drilled sources like spring, artesian well, drilled well or from an underground formation and not from public water supply. It shall be free from dirt, foreign matter or any other ingredients injurious to health. It shall not be transported in bulk container for packaging or any other processing before packing.

2. Fortified mineral water means the water derived from any source of potable water which may be blended, treated/ fortified with mineral salts.

3. Mineral water shall be packed in clean and sterile container.

4. Mineral water shall also conform to the following standards, namely:—

Turbidity (not more than) (NIU)	5
Total dissolved solids (Not more than)mg/l	1500
pH Value	6.5-8.5
Copper (Cu) — mg/l (not more than)	1.0
Iron (as Fe) — mg/l (not more than)	0.3
Nitrate (as No 3) mg/l (not more than)	45
Residual Free Chlorine — mg/l (not more than)	0.2
Fluoride (as F) —mg/l not more than)	1.5
Murcury (as Hg—mg/l (not more than)	0.001
Cadmium (as-Cd)—mg/l (not more than)	0.01
Arsenic (as As)—mg/l (not more than)	0.05

Cyanide	absent
Lead (as Pb) mg/l (not more than)	0.05
Chromium (as Cr)—mg/l (not more than)	0.05
Mineral Oil	absent
Chlorides (as Cl)—mg/l (not more than)	2200
Sulphates (SO 4)—mg/l (not more than)	250
Alkalinity (as HCO 3)—mg/l (not more than)	600
Yeast & mould count	absent
E. coli	absent
Salmonella and Shigella	absent
Clostridium Welchi, C. Botulinum	absent
Bacillus cereus	absent
Vibreo cholerae and V. Parahaemolyticus	

Outbreak of T.B. in the country

210. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH SURYA:
SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been an outbreak of T. B. in some parts of the country, particularly in Delhi;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the reasons for which this silent killer is increasing fast, despite steep increase in the funds for T.B. Eradication Programme, 90 crores this year; and

(d) the details of the emergency plan, the Government have, if any?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

National Illness Assistance Fund

211. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH SURYA:
SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a National Illness Assistance Fund has been astablished;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) how many persons have received assistance from this fund since its creation and on what grounds; and

(d) what is the procedure for getting help from this fund?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Please see Statement enclosed (*see below*)

(c) The fund has been set up recently and the applications received for direct financial assistance are under scrutiny.

(d) Please see Statement enclosed (*see below*).

Statement

Details of National Illness Assistance Fund

(b) National Illness Assistance Fund (NIAF) has been set up vide Ministry of Health & F.W. Resolution dated 15.1.97 which has been published in the Gazette of India (Extraordinary) Part I Section I (No. 9). It has been provided in this scheme that every State/UT (with Legislature) may set up an Illness Assistance Fund which shall be a registered society. The donation received by this society from State Govt./UT Admn. will be supplemented by a Grant-in-aid from Central Govt. to the extent of 50% of the